

wherein Sn is present in an amount of 3-6 at% and said alloy having shape memory and superelasticity characteristics at human body temperature.

2. (UNCHANGED) The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total percentage of the Ti and Zr in said alloy is from 90 to 74 atom%.

3. (UNCHANGED) The alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total percentage of Nb and Ta in said alloy is from 8 to 20 atom%.

8. (UNCHANGED) An orthodontic appliance comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

9. (UNCHANGED) An artificial dental implant comprising the alloy as defined in claim 1.

10. (UNCHANGED) An artificial arthrosis comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

11. (UNCHANGED) A bone material comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

12. (UNCHANGED) A bone fixator comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

13. (UNCHANGED) A thrombus inhibitor comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

14. (UNCHANGED) A catheter introducer comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

15. (UNCHANGED) A Harrington bar comprising the alloy as defined in Claim 1.

16. (AMENDED) An artificial joint comprising the alloy as defined in claim 1.

Please add the following new claims:

--17. An alloy comprising (1) Sn, (2) at least one of Ti and Zr, and (3) at least one of Nb and Ta;